

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A discharge lamp comprising:

an electrode including:

a heater constituted of a coil portion and a first lead wire portion and a second lead wire portion that respectively connect the coil portion through a rear end of the coil portion, the heater having an electron emission material applied thereto; and

scattering-prevention member, which is a cylindrical sleeve whose both ends are open, for covering surrounding of the coil portion, said both open ends respectively facing the forward end and the rear end of the coil portion;

a sleeve lead wire, which is attached to said scattering prevention member at one end and to said heater at the other end; and

a connection-reinforcing member that has a first connection member for connecting the first lead wire portion, and a second connection member for connecting the second lead wire portion, while the first and second connection members integrated with each other by means of a coupling portion are separated from each other by cutting the coupling portion, each of the first and second connection members being composed of L-shaped plate member,

wherein the connection-reinforcing member is supported by any one of the first and second connection members;

wherein in the electrode, the first lead wire portion is connected to a first lead-in wire and the second lead wire portion is connected to the second lead-in wire, said first and second lead-in wires being provided on two opposed ends of a glass tube in which a gas containing a light-emitting material is enclosed and to an interior of which fluorescent substance is coated;

wherein the coil portion is arranged vertically along a tube axis of the glass tube; and

wherein the coil portion is structured by a spiral wire with it being further wound spirally and without coming into contact therewith.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The discharge lamp according to claim 1, wherein in the electrode, a forward end of the coil portion is arranged toward an interior of the sleeve without it exceeding an open end face of the sleeve at the forward end side thereof.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a discharge lamp electrode, the method comprising:

a winding step of winding a wire to form a heater, said heater having a coil portion and a first lead wire portion and a second lead wire portion that extend respectively from a rear end of the coil portion;

a connection-reinforcing-member-welding step of welding the first lead wire portion of the heater to a first connection member of a connection-reinforcing member, and of welding the second lead wire portion of the heater to a second connection member of the connection-reinforcing

member, said connection-reinforcing member including the first and second connection members with them being integrated with each other by means of a coupling portion;

an application step of applying an electron emission material to the heater in a condition where the heater is held by the connection-reinforcing member;

a sleeve welding step of welding a sleeve lead wire to any one of the first and second connection members and inserting the heater into the inside of a scattering-prevention member, which is a cylindrical sleeve;

a lead-in portion welding step of welding a first lead-in wire to the first connection member and a second lead-in wire to the second connection member; and

a cutting step of cutting off the coupling portion from the connection-reinforcing member to separate the first and second connection members from each other.

14. (Previously presented) The method for manufacturing the discharge lamp electrode according to claim 13, wherein the winding step comprises:

a first winding sub-step of winding a wire around a core wire; and

a second winding sub-step of spirally winding the wire that have been wound around the core wire without come into contact therewith; and

wherein a dissolving step of dissolving the core wire is performed after the connection-reinforcing-member-welding step.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) A lighting system using the discharge lamp according to claim 1.